

COLONIAL HEIGHTS POLICE DEPARTMENT 2014 ANNUAL REPORT



MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

On behalf of the men and women of the Colonial Heights Police Department, I am humbled to present to you our **2014 Annual Report**. I believe that within these pages you will realize the continued commitment of every police officer who serves the citizens of this City. They continue to work with the public, business community and outside agencies to make our community a safe place to live and visit.

In 2014, the Colonial Heights Police Department experienced another active and productive year. Our personnel responded to approximately 44,771 calls for service. This increase coincided with an increase in Part 1, or serious, crimes. Along with the increase in crimes and calls for service came an increase in the number of arrests. Overall, our officers cleared 59% of Part 1 crimes. According to FBI nationwide statistics, law enforcement clears approximately 44% of violent crimes, while our officers' efforts resulted in a case clearance rate of over 76%.

It is my hope that you see and feel that the Colonial Heights Police Department is committed to our mission of protecting life, individual liberty and property of all people within the City, and holding those accountable for their disregard of our state and local laws. We recognize that sometimes "perception" is sometimes reality for some, so we strive toward a goal of citizens and visitors "feeling safe" in our community as well.

In an effort to be more transparent, as well as show our citizens all the positives going on in the police department, we became active in social media via Facebook. We quickly gained over 2,000 followers and look to promote our community events and be accountable to those whom we serve.

No doubt that our greatest highlight had to be the acquisition of body-worn cameras in December of 2014. A lot of research was done, and we determined that Taser® was the best brand of body-worn cameras for our needs. We received overwhelming support from the City Manager and City Council. We decided to take the lead in the Richmond Metro area, and it was received well in our community.

On behalf of the department, please know our appreciation for your support and encouragement—it does not go unnoticed. The above endeavors are the reason that make our community very special and why the Colonial Heights Police Department is viewed in a favorable light. If there are any questions concerning the report data or requests for additional information in the report, please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Respectfully,

Col. Jeffrey W. Faries

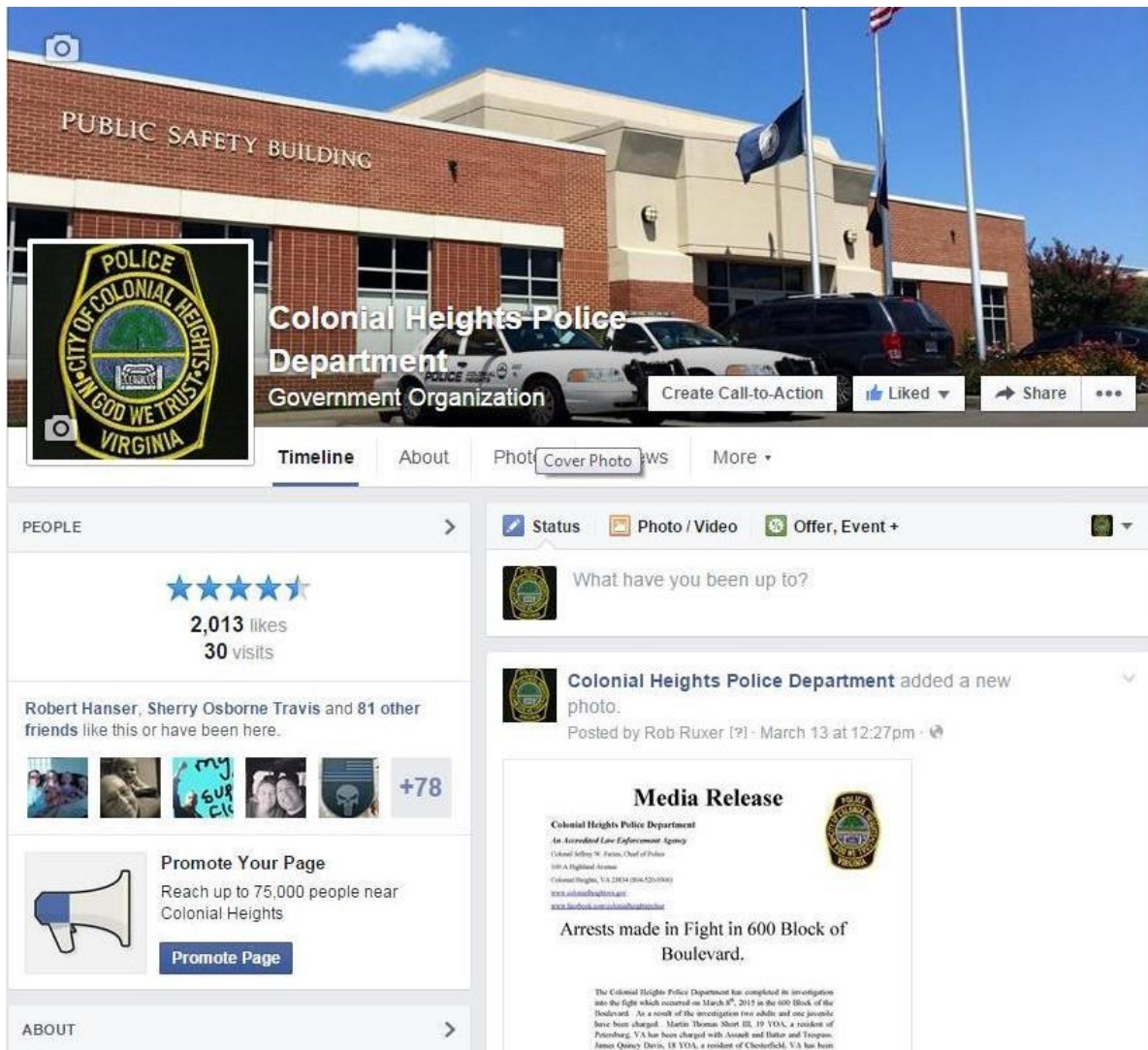
Colonel Jeffrey W. Faries
Chief of Police

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2014 Highlights

The Colonial Heights Police Department became a presence on Social Media.



PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING

Colonial Heights Police Department
Government Organization

Create Call-to-Action Liked Share ...

Timeline About Photos Cover Photo News More

PEOPLE

★★★★★
2,013 likes
30 visits

Robert Hanser, Sherry Osborne Travis and 81 other friends like this or have been here.

my SUR CA +78

Promote Your Page
Reach up to 75,000 people near Colonial Heights
[Promote Page](#)

ABOUT

Status Photo / Video Offer, Event +

What have you been up to?

Colonial Heights Police Department added a new photo.
Posted by Rob Ruxer [?] · March 13 at 12:27pm ·

Media Release

Colonial Heights Police Department
An Accredited Law Enforcement Agency
Colonel Jeffrey W. Parks, Chief of Police
1010 A Highland Avenue
Colonial Heights, VA 23041 (804) 520-1000
www.colonialheights.org
www.facebook.com/colonialheightspolice

Arrests made in Fight in 600 Block of Boulevard.

The Colonial Heights Police Department has completed its investigation into the fight which occurred on March 8th, 2014 in the 600 Block of the Boulevard. As a result of the investigation two adults and one juvenile have been charged. Martin Thomas Short III, 19 YOA, a resident of Petersburg, VA has been charged with Assault and Battery and Trespass. James Quincy Davis, 18 YOA, a resident of Chesterfield, VA has been

2014 Highlights

Media Release

Colonial Heights Police Department

An Accredited Law Enforcement Agency

Colonel Jeffrey W. Faries, Chief of Police

100 A Highland Avenue

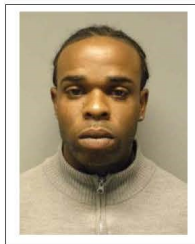
Colonial Heights, VA 23934 (804-520-9300)

www.colonialheightsva.gov



Police Arrest Burglary Suspect

On June 17, 2014 at approximately 2:30 a.m. an officer on patrol in the 3400 block of the Boulevard, checking area businesses due to a rash of burglaries in the area, observed a suspicious subject behind one of the buildings in the area. When the officer pulled over the person fled on approach. A short foot pursuit ensued and the subject was detained. The subject was found to have several burglary tools in his possession. As a result of this arrest and further investigation by detectives, the subject has charged with the burglary and malicious wounding that occurred at Carlton's Automotive on May 21, 2014. During this burglary an employee who was sleeping inside the business was assaulted when he caught the subject in the act. The subject has been linked to several other burglaries that have occurred in the area during the past several months. The suspect at this time has been charged with two counts of burglary, malicious wounding, grand larceny, possession of burglary tools and resisting arrest. This is an ongoing investigation and more charges are expected. The subject is being held at the Riverside Regional Jail with no bond.



Billy Thomas Matthis

34 years of age

Colonial Heights resident

Public Information Officer: Sergeant Robert L. Ruxer III (804)-520-9306 ruxerr@colonialheightsva.gov

2014 Highlights



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 18, 2014**

For more information contact:
Thomas L. Mattis, City Manager
(804) 520-9265 (office)
(804) 882-2736 (cell)

Colonial Heights Police Department First in Area to Equip All Patrol Officers with Body Cameras

The Colonial Heights City Council today approved a request by Police Chief Jeffrey W. Faries to equip all Colonial Heights Police Patrol Officers with body cameras, in an effort to generally upgrade officer safety and enhance public confidence in police operations through greater transparency.

With the implementation of this program, Colonial Heights is believed to be the first law enforcement agency Tri-Cities and the Richmond metropolitan area to equip its entire patrol operation with body cameras.

"The acquisition of body cameras for our officers will enable the CHPD to document all enforcement actions and increase personal accountability" said Chief Faries. "Body cameras have also proven to be worth the investment regarding civil claims against other law enforcement agencies."

The body cameras to be utilized by the CHPD are essentially an audio/video system consisting of three components (head camera, communication hub and tactical computer) worn by an officer to record events during his/her on-duty work shift. The system will be used to document events and capture data that will be preserved in a Cloud-based digital storage facility. Once recorded and downloaded, these recordings cannot be altered in any way and are protected with multiple layers of encryption.

"While recent events involving other agencies have admittedly caused us to review our own police operations and procedures, this is not a reactionary measure" said City Manager Tom Mattis, "We believe this to be an appropriately responsive decision that will enhance both officer safety and public confidence in our operation."

2014 Highlights

To implement this program, the CHPD will acquire forty-two (42) body cameras that will equip the entire uniform patrol staff and the Special Operations Unit; and will also allow body cameras to be utilized by off duty personnel. Each officer will be issued a body camera, a license, and storage for their individual content. Recordings remain property of the CHPD and will be randomly reviewed by supervisors to monitor officer performance, training, early intervention inquiries, civil claims, or administrative inquiry.

“Body cameras will be the norm in the future for all law enforcement,” said Chief Faries. “They have been shown to reduce complaints, document scenes of crimes and change an individual’s behavior in a positive way. Body cameras will also allow us to document any training deficiencies that we may see in our own police officers.”

Total cost for implementation of the entire system is currently estimated at approximately \$70,000. The funding plan recommended by staff is to divide the cost equally between the Police Asset Seizure Fund and the current-year budget Contingency Fund. However, this program is not anticipated to have an adverse effect on the overall Operating Budget.

“Colonial Heights has a strong history of supporting high-level public safety services for our community” said Colonial Heights Mayor C. Scott Davis. “Embracing the new technology provided by body cameras will maintain that commitment to safety for our residents and businesses.”

It is currently estimated that the CHPD body camera system will be fully operational in the next 45-60 days.

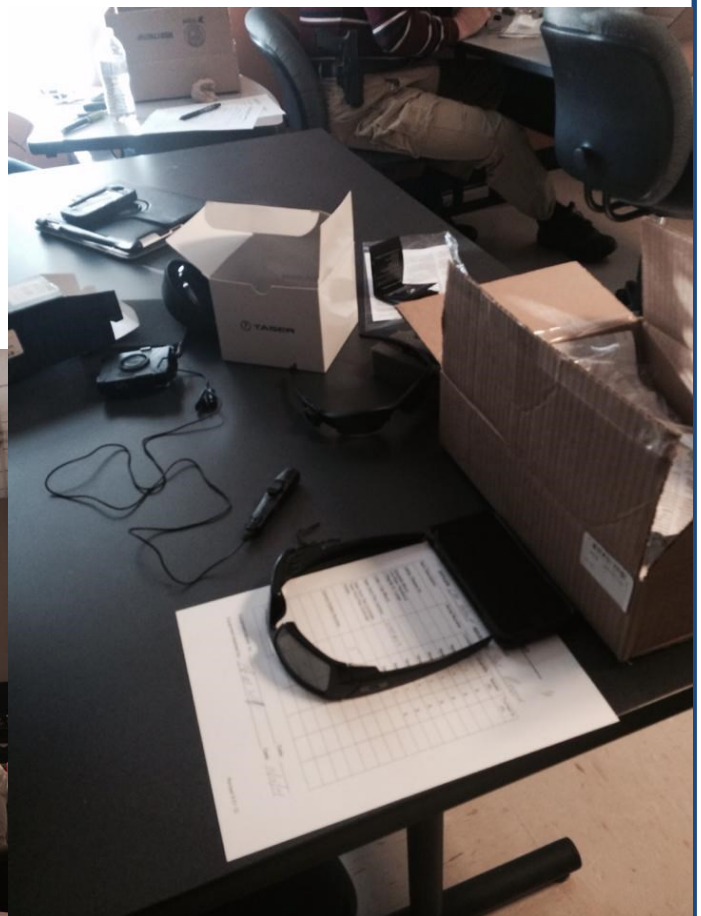
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About Colonial Heights

The City of Colonial Heights is a full-service independent Virginia city that is home to just over 17,000 residents and serves as the market center for the Tri-Cities Area (which includes the cities of Petersburg and Hopewell, Prince George and Dinwiddie Counties and Fort Lee). For more information about Colonial Heights, please visit www.colonialheightsva.gov.

2014 Highlights

Taser Body Camera training has occurred over three days in December. All officers were trained in the use of the Taser Axon Flex body camera as well as the downloading, trouble shooting and collecting of digital evidence. which will only aid our officers and the public



2014 Highlights



In 2014, Officer Robert Simmons was awarded the Mothers Against Drunk Driving Award for his proactive efforts to enforce impaired driving laws.

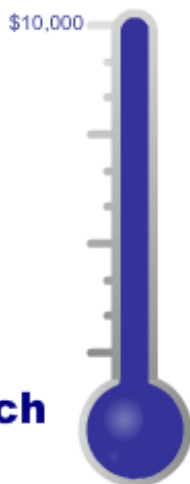


Sergeant Robert Ruxer was awarded the American Legion "Police Officer of the Year Award".

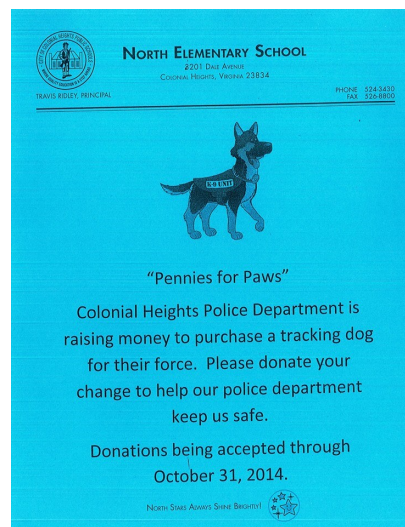
2014 Highlights

In Late 2014 the Colonial Heights Police Department began raising money to implement a Canine Tracking program. Fundraising continued through 2015. The Community showed overwhelming support towards this program.

Colonial Heights
Police Department
K-9 Tracking Dog



**Help Us Reach
Our Goal**



In 2014 the Colonial Heights Police Department received a grant through DCJS and was able to have a full time School Resource Officer at North Elementary. Officer Renee Walters, a veteran officer, is filling this role. This brings the total number of School Resource Officers to four, leaving only one elementary school without a permanent officer. The department is seeking additional grant money to have a resource officer at every school.



Accreditation



For 2014 The Colonial Heights Police Department remained an accredited agency. The Department is up for re-accreditation in 2016. The following paragraph from the VALEPSC website describes what accreditation means to the community:

“Accreditation increases the law enforcement agency’s ability to prevent and control crime through more effective and efficient delivery of law enforcement services to the community it serves. Accreditation enhances community understanding of the law enforcement agency and its role in the community as well as its goals and objectives. Citizen confidence in the policies and practices of the agency is increased. Accreditation, in conjunction with the philosophy of community policing, commits the agency to a broad range of programs (such as crime prevention) that directly benefit the public. Accreditation creates a forum in which police and citizens work together to control and prevent crime. This partnership will help citizens to understand the challenges that confront law enforcement. Law enforcement will, in turn, receive clear direction from the community about its expectations. Thus, a common set of goals and objectives will be arrived at and implemented. “

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Colonial Heights Police Department is to protect the life, individual liberty and property of all people within the City of Colonial Heights, to develop and actively pursue a positive relationship with members of the community and to foster a positive working environment for members of the Colonial Heights Police Department.

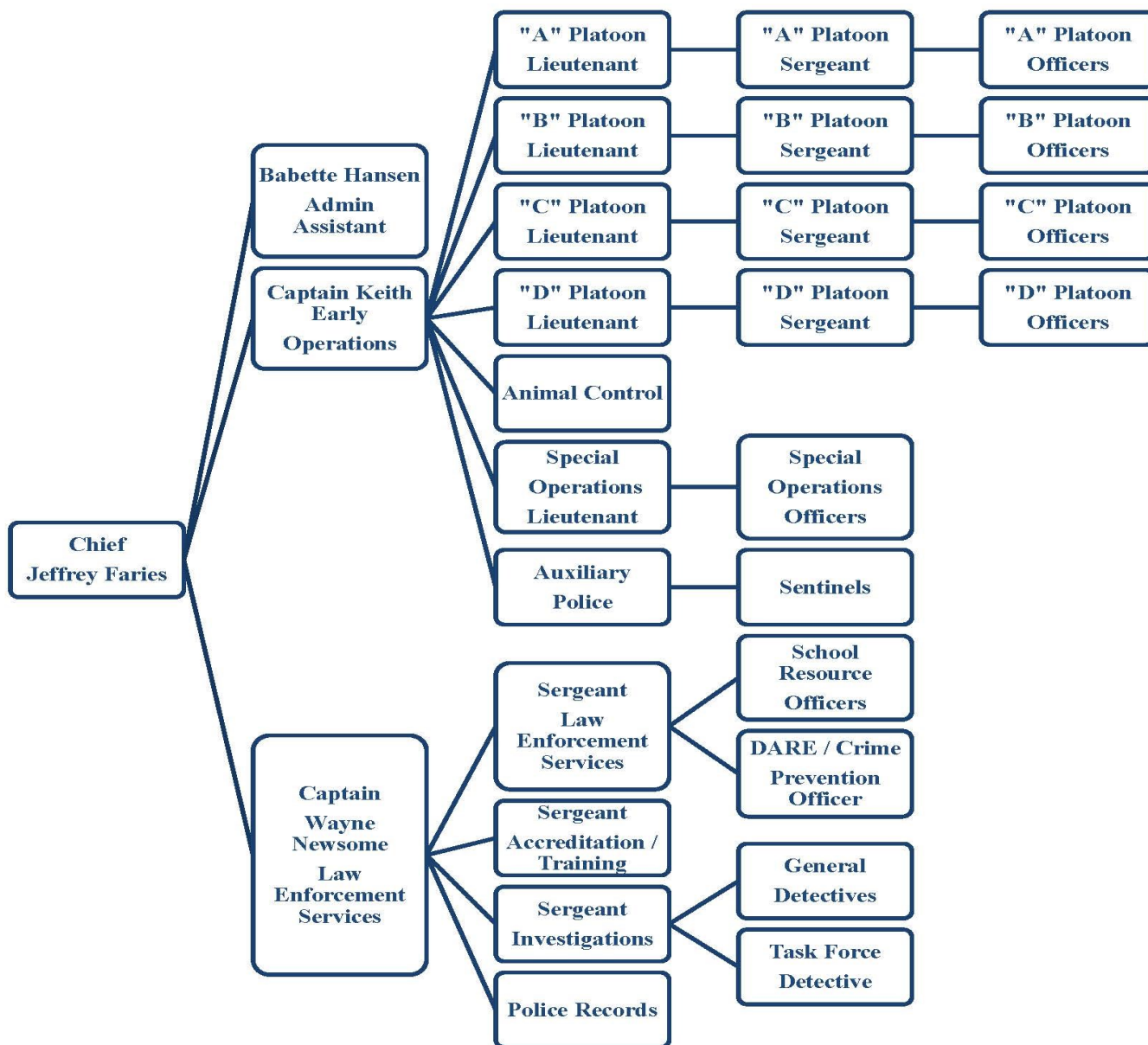
Department Goals

The employees of the Colonial Heights Police Department are committed to accomplishing this mission through attainment of the following goals:

- Preserving individual rights as guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States
- Effectively enforcing state and local laws and ordinances
- Aggressively investigating criminal offenses
- Providing timely apprehension of persons suspected of committing criminal acts
- Effectively managing departmental resources for optimal service delivery to all citizens
- Providing impartial, competent, and courteous service to the public without regard to race, creed, or gender

Colonial Heights Police Department

Organizational Chart 2014



Command Staff



Colonel Jeffrey W. Faries has been the Chief of Police for the City of Colonial Heights since December of 2005. He holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Criminology from Saint Leo University and is a graduate of the Sorenson Institute for Political Leadership at the University of Virginia. In addition, he is a graduate of the prestigious F.B.I. National Academy, 212th Session, as well as the 68th Session of the F.B.I. National Academy's L.E.E.D.S. Program (Law Enforcement Executive Development Seminar).

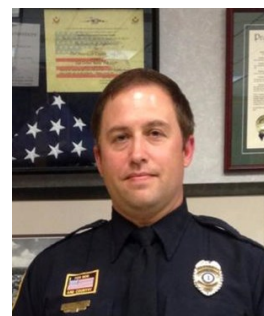
Among his many work-related memberships, the Chief is a past chairman of the Central Virginia Regional Narcotics Task Force; serves his community as President of the Colonial Heights Kiwanis Club, and is a member of the Colonial Heights Chamber of Commerce. He is also co-chairman of the Tri-Cities Regional Strike Force. Chief Faries' membership in the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police (V.A.C.P.) finds him currently sitting on two boards—the Highway Safety Committee and the Witness Protection Board.

Captain W. Keith Early commands the Operations Bureau of the Colonial Heights Police Department. Captain Early has been in Law Enforcement since 1993. He possesses a Bachelor of Science Degree from the Virginia Commonwealth University, and he is a graduate of both the National Criminal Justice Command College and the FBI National Academy. Captain Early oversees Uniform Patrol, Auxiliary Police, Animal Control, and Special Operations



Captain Wayne Newsome is in charge of the Law Enforcement Services Bureau of the Colonial Heights Police Department. Captain Newsome has been in Law Enforcement since 1974. He is a graduate of the National Criminal Justice Command College. Captain Newsome oversees many areas in the department such as Evidence, Records, Investigations, School Resource Officers, Crime Prevention, Accreditation and Internal Affairs.

Sergeant Robert L Ruxer III is assigned to the Law Enforcement Services Bureau of the Colonial Heights Police Department. Sergeant Ruxer is the Public Information Officer and directly supervises the School Resource Officers and Crime Prevention. Sergeant Ruxer assists Captain Newsome with many other areas such as Property and Evidence and Equipment.



Sergeant Terry Long is assigned to the Law Enforcement Services Bureau of the Colonial Heights Police Department. Sergeant Long has been with the department since 1986 and is currently responsible for maintaining the department's accreditation through The Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission (VALEPC). Sergeant Long is also responsible for coordinating and scheduling all training requirements for department employees as required by The Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services.

OPERATIONS

Several different responsibilities fall under the control of the Operations Bureau.

Uniform Patrol

Consisting of thirty-five sworn officers on four squads, these officers provide around the clock police protection through twelve-hour shifts. Uniform Patrol respond to calls for serve, enforce criminal and traffic laws, conduct investigations, process evidence, testify in court and identify and address quality of life issues in the community.

Animal Control

The Animal Control Division enforces all city and state laws and regulations relating to the control and protection of animals. Animal Control also operate and maintain the Animal Control Shelter in accordance with state laws. Animal control consists of one full time Animal Control Officer or ACO, one cross-trained police officer and one part-time Shelter Aide.

Auxiliary Police and Sentinel Officers

The volunteer division of the Colonial Heights Police Department offers citizens the opportunity to promote public safety through personal participation. Auxiliary Police and Sentinel Officers are an invaluable resource to the Department and community as they perform many supplemental police duties.

Special Operations Unit

The Special Operations Unit is a specialty unit comprised of police officers who concentrate on quality-of-life crimes (disorderly conduct, public intoxication, prostitution, etc.), narcotics violations, gang activity, and any other tasks that would require their specialized skill set.

The Special Operations Unit assists the Investigations Division with major crimes as needed. The Unit actively solicits tips from other officers and members of the public regarding suspected criminal activity of an ongoing, chronic nature. These officers work with local, state and federal agencies and are responsible for educating the public regarding topics of narcotics and gangs

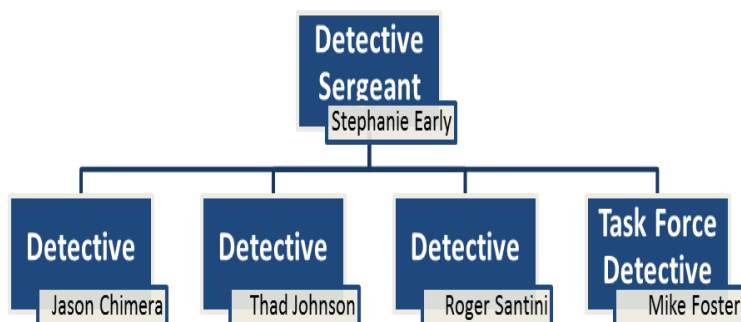
Law Enforcement Services

The primary task of the Law Enforcement Services Bureau is to provide support to all officers and to the command staff of the Colonial Heights Police Department. The Bureau is responsible for the Criminal Investigations Division; training; maintenance and purchasing of equipment, property and evidence and buildings and grounds. The Bureau is also responsible for inspections, research and development, grants, records, receptionists and special projects. The Bureau is also responsible for supplemental department services provided to the schools including three School Resource Officers, and an officer assigned to the D.A.R.E. program.

Investigations

The Investigations Division has the primary responsibility of conducting in-depth criminal and crime scene investigations. In addition to their primary roles, detectives are able to provide guidance to patrol officers concerning criminal investigations and crime scene processing. Detectives investigate many crimes, including narcotics violations, homicides, robberies, sexual crimes, property crimes, frauds, auto thefts, burglaries and missing persons cases. The investigations unit is also responsible for investigating and maintaining compliance on many permits such as Concealed Weapon Permits and Precious Metals Permits.

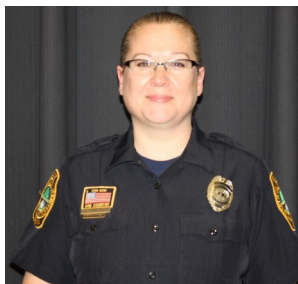
The Investigations Division consists of a sergeant and three general investigators. The Task Force Detective also falls under the supervision of the Investigations Sergeant



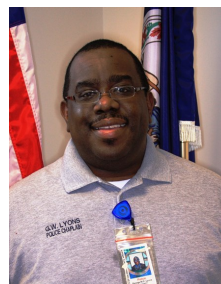
Law Enforcement Services

DARE / Crime Prevention

The Colonial Heights Police Department has provided a certified D.A.R.E. Officer to the city schools since 1987. Officer Sophie Benkendorf teaches D.A.R.E. to both elementary and middle school students. She also serves as the crime prevention officer, coordinating such events as Celebrate Safe Communities and the Special Olympics Torch Run.



DARE Officer Sophie Benkendorf



Chaplain Lyons



Chaplain Murray

Crossing Guards

The police department employs five School Crossing Guards. Crossing Guards are responsible for the safe passage of students while entering or exiting school grounds by designated crosswalks.

Chaplains

The Police Chaplains are appointed by the Chief of Police to act as an aide to the officers and citizens of Colonial Heights. They strive to provide spiritual guidance, counseling and comfort in times of crisis, without attempting to moralize, evangelize, or criticize.

Records

Two full-time Records Specialists, Ms. Robin Kester and Mrs. Bobbi Adams, are responsible for maintaining all police information. Records Specialists process all police and Animal Control reports, traffic and criminal summonses, parking tickets, alarm citations, vehicle crash reports, property receipts and pawn records. Closed investigative case files are archived and purged as necessary. Each year, our Records Specialists process in excess of 20,000 documents.

School Resources Officers

The department has employed two school resource officers, one at the High School and one at the Middle School. Their primary mission is to provide a visible and positive image to students. They are able to provide confidential counseling to students and help them make positive choices. School Resource Officers ensure a healthy school environment where both teachers and students feel safe. In the fall of 2014 a fourth school resource officer was added at North Elementary School. These grant funded positions will hopefully lead to School Resource Officers at all three elementary schools.



Middle School SRO
Scott Whirley



High School SRO
James "Dale" Wal-



Lekeview SRO
Andy Barnhouse



North SRO
Renee Walters

Specialized Units

There are many specialized units within the department. These units are filled by members of both the Operations and Law Enforcement Services Bureaus. These specializations are credited towards an officer's advancement in the department's Career Development Program.

K-9

Narcotics dogs have been successful in finding a variety of illegal substances which have lead to the arrest and successful conviction of the numerous offenders. Additionally, canines are utilized for drug sweeps of city school buildings and grounds. They are available to assist other local police agencies with searches of schools and the execution of search warrants.



Blitz

Honor Guard

The Colonial Heights Police Honor Guard consists of police officers who volunteer to represent the department during functions such as parades, official ceremonies, athletic events and funerals for law enforcement officers and other public figures. Honor Guard members wear a distinctive uniform when performing this specialized duty.

Crime Scene Technicians

Crime Scene Technicians are an essential part of the Colonial Heights Police Department. They are trained to assist detectives with major crime scenes as well as investigate minor crimes on their own. Crime Scene Technicians are patrol officers who are trained by the Investigations Division, but assigned to a patrol squad. They are provided with all the tools they need to investigate most crimes scenes they encounter.

Specialized Units

Hostage Negotiators

The Colonial Heights Police Department has several officers who are trained as hostage negotiators. These officers are able to utilize their natural skills, training and experience to verbally communicate with and convince a hostage taker or barricaded subject to release hostages unharmed, and surrender themselves peacefully.

Crash Investigators

These officers are responsible for investigating fatal and major vehicle crashes, as well as crashes involving police department vehicles. Crash Investigators also provide expertise to patrol officers regarding the investigation of less serious crashes. Many of these investigations involve the determination of speed, crash reconstruction, interviewing witnesses, collecting and preserving forensic evidence and court testimony.

Child Seat Technicians

These officers have been trained to properly inspect and install various types of child safety seats. They are available during their shift to assist citizens with safety seats. Additionally they work several special child safety seat inspection and installation events throughout the year.

Crime and Traffic Statistics

Calls for Service	Year
2012	47,240
2013	42,790
2014	44,771

Part 1 Crime Clearances

Crime	Number of Offenses	Cases Cleared	% Cleared
Homicide	1	1	100%
Rape	1	1	100%
Robbery	14	7	50%
Aggravated Assault	21	19	90%
Total Violent Crimes	37	28	76%
Break & Enter	82	34	41%
Larceny	788	481	61%
Vehicle Theft	16	7	44%
Arson	10	3	30%
Total Property Crimes	896	525	59%
Total Part I Crimes	933	553	59%

Crime and Traffic Statistics

Part 1 Crimes

Crime	2013	2014
Homicide	1	1
Rape	5	1
Robbery	13	14
Aggravated Assault	18	21
Total Violent Crimes	37	37
Break & Enter	54	82
Larceny	704	788
Vehicle Theft	21	16
Arson	1	10
Total Property Crimes	780	896
Total Part I Crimes	817	933

Crime and Traffic Statistics

Other Reported Crimes

Crime	2013	2014
Simple Assaults	155	168
Assaults on Police	9	13
Annoying Phone Calls	5	6
Bomb Threats	0	3
Child Neglect	31	44
Curfew Violations	0	8
Drugs/Narcotics	498	436
Disorderly Conduct	18	12
Domestic Violence	469	418
Drunkenness	61	73
Embezzlement	33	32
Credit Card Fraud	67	74
Fraud by Swindle	50	89
Forgery	43	69
Hit and Run	117	117
Kidnapping/Abduction	7	12
Missing Person	4	7
Resist Arrest	27	22
Pornography	1	4
Indecent Exposure	3	2
Sexual Assault	23	12
Stalking	3	2
Suicide	2	4
Trespassing	47	58
Vandalism	157	225
Weapons Violations	69	60
All Other Offenses	1056	1023

Crime and Traffic Statistics

Persons Arrested by Offense

Offense Type	2013	2014
Homicide	4	0
Manslaughter	0	0
Rape	5	0
Robbery	9	22
Aggravated Assault	26	13
Other Assault	192	212
Burglary	20	49
Larceny	686	782
Vehicle Theft	7	7
Arson	0	4
Forgery / Counterfeit	66	79
Fraud	116	160
Embezzlement	46	58
Vandalism	45	160
Weapons Offenses	85	74
Sex Offenses	31	19
Drug Sales	136	146
Drug Possession	449	424
DUI	193	218
Alcohol Violations	115	74
Drunk in Public	66	75
Disorderly	46	36
Runaway	33	26
Curfew	1	29
Other	1719	1911
TOTAL	4096	4575

Crime and Traffic Statistics

Traffic Offenses by Type

Offense	2013	2014
DUI	193	218
DUI Test Refusal	44	38
Speeding (Radar)	2274	2035
Reckless (Speeding)	139	88
Reckless (General)	58	88
Habitual Offender	4	12
Hit and Run	34	27
Following too Closely	120	110
Fail to Keep Proper Control	13	17
Improper Turn	15	13
Improper Lane Change	85	64
Fail to Obey Highway Sign	521	596
Fail to Obey Highway Signal	106	115
Fail to Yield	86	93
Fail to Obey Siren/Lights	22	18
Expired or No Operator's License	475	403
Suspended Operator's License	748	801
No Safety Restraint	213	184
No Insurance	135	70
Expired or No Inspection	759	678
Expired or No Registration	236	199
Expired or No License Plates	366	421
Improper Equipment	527	557
Fail to Dim Headlights	53	74
Expired or No Local Tag	28	11
Miscellaneous	247	195
TOTAL	7501	7125

Top 10 Crash Locations

Rank	Location	2014
1	Parking Lots	141
2	I-95 & Temple	48
3	Conduit / Temple	37
4	Boulevard / Temple	18
5	Southpark / Charles Dimmock	17
6	Temple / Charles Dimmock	14
7	Southpark Blvd / Southpark Circle	13
8	South Avenue / Southpark Blvd	12
9	Boulevard / Ellerslie	11
10	Southpark / Conduit	10

Traffic Crashes by Month

	2013	2014
January	96	80
February	80	80
March	85	74
April	77	90
May	74	98
June	87	69
July	76	82
August	83	93
September	83	81
October	92	78
November	102	94
December	88	116

2014 Animal Control Statistics

Animals Received

	On Hand January 1	Stray	Seized	Surrendered by owner	Received from Another Agency	Total
Dogs	14	166	10	107	23	320
Cats	13	147	0	102	272	272
Other	0	1	1	0	0	2

Disposition of Animals

	Reclaimed by Owner	Adopted	Transferred to Another Agency	Died in Facility	Euthanized	On Hand December 31	Total
Dogs	100	121	82	0	2	15	320
Cats	16	183	42	6	16	9	272
Other	0	2	0	0	0	0	2

This Report was compiled and assembled by Law Enforcement Services Sergeant Robert L Ruxer III. Should you have any questions in regards to the content please contact Sergeant Ruxer at:

804-520-9306

ruxerr@colonialheightsva.gov